

## REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-17, and 19-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 6, 12, and 18 have been cancelled and claims 1, 10, 13, 15, and 19 have been amended. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 5-6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office asserts that claim 5 recites the limitation “the combining step” in line 1 and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation. Further, the Office asserts that claim 11 recites “n choose matrices” in lines 2-3 which is unclear. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and included in independent claim 1. Also, Applicants assert that claim 11 does not recite “n choose matrices” in lines 2-3, but recites “n choose k matrices.” Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Office indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Moreover, claims 7-8, 12-13, and 18-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but Appl. No. 10/710,648  
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would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 9-11, 14-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ikeuchi (US 6,952,818) in view of Radecka K. et al., "Design verification by test vectors and arithmetic transform universal test set." By this Amendment, claims 5, 6, 12, and 18 have been cancelled. Also, claims 1, 10, 13, 15, and 19 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants assert that these amendments have been made to facilitate early allowance of the claimed subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael F. Hoffman/

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Date: March 12, 2008

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